Democrat photo by Teresa Cox

HANGIN' AROUND — Goodwill store employees Kristy Bersch (right) and Brenda McEntire separate clothing onto racks in preparation for the opening of the Goodwill store. The store, located at 708 Palo Pinto, will open Dec. 1.

Goodwill store to open Dec. 1

Dec. 1, 1994, will mark the first official day of business for the new Weatherford Goodwill Retail Store located at 708 Palo Pinto.

After researching several possible locations for a new store, Goodwill selected Weatherford. Stephanie Butler, manager of the new retail center, says people are already stopping by, wanting to shop.

Although it is still a few weeks away from opening, Butler and the rest of the Goodwill staff are working to ensure this retail store provides a pleasant shopping environment for all customers.

Goodwill encourages everyone to visit the new retail store, which will have clothing for everyone, furniture, housewares, toys, books, music and much more. And the best part of shopping at Goodwill is the difference the purchase will make in the lives of others in the community.

The purpose of Goodwill Industries is to provide jobs, job training and career placement for people with disabilities or other barriers to employment. Goodwill offers a wide range of vocational rehabilitation programs which are funded primarily through the sale of donated goods. These programs assist people in learning new job skills so they can become productive wage earners in society.

Goodwill believes that the best social program is a job, according to Goodwill representatives. Through productive work, people often gain the independence and self-respect necessary to solve their own social problems.

Through Goodwill, tax recipients become tax payers. People on government assistance programs become self-supportive. People who have never worked before because of a disability make a positive contribution to the community, according to Goodwill officials.

Goodwill Industries is the world's largest employer of people with disabilities, believing that all people deserve the opportunity to succeed.

"Goodwill wants you to know that when you donate to Goodwill or shop in a retail store, you are really helping others empower themselves to lead new lives of independence," said Anita Foster, a representative for Goodwill Industries.

A grand opening celebration for the store will be held on Dec. 1. The ribbon cutting will take place at 10 a.m., officially opening the doors to the community. Festivities will include balloons, drawings for gift certificates, popcorn, clowns, and much more fun.

A donation center will be located at the rear of the store. To donate, please enter from Merrimac Street. Regular store and donation hours are Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.